



The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 51, No. 3

Third Quarter, 2015

Whole No. 196

Major Plate Variety of Scott No. 125

by Gary B. Weiss, Richard D. Bates, Jr.,
and Daniel Piazza

One of us, many years ago, noted a smudge near the plate number in his top right plate number block of Scott No. 125, the 7c value of the 25th Anniversary of the Opening of the Panama Canal set. It was assumed to be dirt and replacement with a clean plate block was planned. The plan was put on hold and then forgotten as budget gave other material higher priority. At a recent stamp show, a large Canal Zone holding was being broken up by a dealer. Looking through this stock, a smudge was noted on a plate number single and memories returned. The stamp was selected and beneath it was a second example. Both were purchased. The stamp is shown in Fig. 1 and the plate number in Fig. 2.

There were 71,235 copies of Scott No. 125 sold, although 210,000 were printed. It was printed in sheets of 200 from

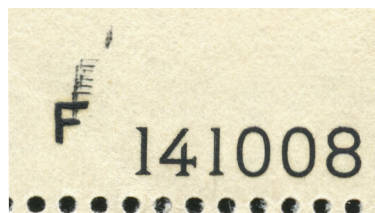


Fig. 2
Enlargement of F
in plate number

a single plate that had plate number 141008. Assuming that few part sheets were destroyed, only approximately 360 sheets or 360 stamps from any position were issued. All stamps from position UR3 will show this variety and this variety is confirmed by examination of the proof sheet in the Smithsonian collection (Fig. 3) and use on first day covers (Fig. 4).

The nature of this variety is the subject of considerable discussion/debate. The variety shows multiple displaced Fs above and to the right of the F associated with the plate number. There appear to be at least seven partial Fs in a group, and above these, the base of perhaps two more. How did this cluster of Fs arise? The plate number was entered mechanically while the F was added by hand (hammered). We suspect that after the plate was prepared and hardened, it was noticed that the F marking was absent. When added to the hardened rather than the soft plate, the device bounced (chatter) and this resulted in multiple impressions with varying displacements. Whatever the cause, this variety is

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Fig. 1
Plate number single
of Scott No. 125

Upcoming CZSG Meetings

Regional Meetings

Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, Sarasota, FL
February 5-7, 2016 Meeting: TBD

International Meetings

World Stamp Show - 2016, New York City
Sunday, May 29, 2016 Meeting: 11:00 AM - 1 PM

As a Participating Society in Future National Meetings

ARIPEX 2017, February 17-19, 2017, Mesa, AZ

Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition 2018, Sarasota, FL

WESTPEX 2020

San Francisco, CA, April 24-26, 2020

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The Canal Zone Philatelist

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***The Canal Zone Philatelist* (ISSN 0746-004 X) is published quarterly for \$12.00/year, which includes membership in the CZSG, 4112 E Kilmer St., Tucson, AZ 85711.**

Periodical Postage Paid at Tucson, AZ. POSTMASTER: Send address changes and complaints of non-delivery to *The Canal Zone Philatelist*, c/o Secretary Mike Drabik, PO Box 281, Bolton, MA 01740.

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Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Scans are preferred for figures of stamps or covers. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write or EMAIL the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

Commonly used abbreviations

BEP = Bureau of Engraving & Printing

Check List = CZSG *Check list of Canal Zone Stamps and Postal Stationery* (rev. 2015, Richard Spielberg, Ed.)

CZ Stamps = *Canal Zone Stamps*, by Gilbert N. Plass, Geoffrey Brewster, and Richard H. Salz, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1986

CZP = *The Canal Zone Philatelist*

Entwistle = *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, 2nd Edition*, by Lawson P. Entwistle, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1992; specific cancels are indicated Entw. ###.

French = *Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on US Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps*, by Loran C. French, Bureau Issues Association, 1979

Scott = *Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps*, current edition

Tatelman = *Canal Zone Postage Stamps*, by E.I.P. Tatelman, Canal Zone Postal Service, Mt. Hope, CZ, 1961

ABNCo = American Bank Note Company

NPM = National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian Institution

Journal citations are *Journal Name*, Volume No., Pages, Year. Anything without a byline is written by the Editor.

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Major Plate Variety of Scott No. 125

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Fig. 3
Plate proof showing variety

*Scan courtesy of
National Postal Museum*

spectacular and may already be in your collection.

Jay Stotts of the United States Stamp Society suggests that variations of the F in the UR plate number are not uncommon on US stamps. Other variations in the F marking are already known to Canal Zone collectors. Prior to this discovery the most infamous is on Scott No. J18, the 1c Sharp A Postage Due of 1925. Plate number 13847 has an inverted F on the lower left pane (Fig. 5) (and no F on the upper right pane).

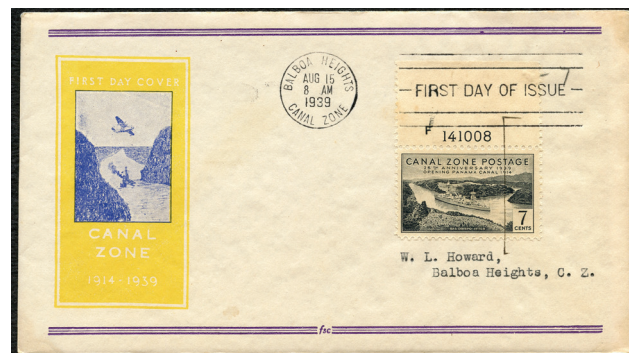


Fig. 4 **Variety used on first day cover**



Fig. 5
Inverted F on Scott No. J18

Comments from Members:

Dealer member Bruce Hecht wrote that he recently purchased eBay item 321798151829 (a CZ & Hawaii lot). Upon checking the scan provided by the seller, he was immediately suspicious of several of the overprints. Upon receipt, his suspicions were confirmed. Scott #4,5,6,8,95,104 all have fake overprints. He did not notify the seller of concerns, but rather preferred to buy the lot and incorporate it with other CZ fakes in his reference collection to take and keep them off the market. He advises that the CZP include a caution to buyers to check carefully the scans from any internet site. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

Not Quite “ZONE CANAL” Errors, But Collectible Nonetheless

by George R. Campbell

Several Canal Zone stamps had the CANAL ZONE overprinting so drastically shifted, usually in the vertical direction, as to produce “ZONE CANAL” errors. To qualify as *bona fide* errors, these stamps must read “ZONE CANAL” with no additional trace of the letters appearing on the stamps, e.g., on the perforations. If traces do appear, these stamps are referred to as having “split overprints.”



Fig. 1
CZSG No. 86.5a

Nevertheless, the split overprint “ZONE CANAL” varieties are visually striking, highly collectible, and are included in the *CZSG Checklist of Canal Zone Stamps and Postal Stationery* (Rev. 2015). Most of these stamps occur on US overprints and include CZSG Nos. 84.3, 86.5a, 91.4, 93.4, 104.2, and 116.1. Figure 1 illustrates an example of CZSG No. 86.5a, the 5-cent “Sharp A” overprint on the US Fourth Bureau flat plate, perforated 11x11 stamp. This variety resulted from the overprint being applied at a slight angle, which created numerous “true” errors, in addition to the split overprint. The author acquired this stamp many years ago at a New York auction, where it had been represented as the “true” ZONE CANAL error. Such listing mistakes by auctioneers and dealers continue to this day.

Figure 2 illustrates a split overprint variety on the 14-cent American Indian stamp, CZSG No. 116.1. According to *Canal Zone Stamps*, the vertically shifted overprinting produced 16 true ZONE CANAL errors, with the balance of the sheet of 100 being comprised of split overprints. The author, who owns one of these, refers to it as “the poor man’s ZONE CANAL.”

One of the more spectacular split ZONE CANAL varieties occurs on the 2-cent value of the Third Postage Due Series, CZSG No. J8.1, as shown in Fig. 3. This variety was produced by a horizontal shift in the overprint applied to the basic Panama 2-centavo postage due stamp, and



Fig. 2
CZSG No. 116.1



Fig. 3
Fig. 3 CZSG No. J8.1

resulted in the overprint reading “ZONE CANAL 2”(L to R). Unlike other ZONE CANAL errors, no true “ZONE CANAL 2” overprints have been reported. And, depending upon the direction of the shift, “ZONE” only or “CANAL 2” split overprints may also have occurred. These, too, have not been reported. Pending further discoveries, it would appear that CZSG J8.1 is the only collectible version of this ZONE CANAL overprint.

In conclusion, split overprint varieties represent an interesting and often economical way to collect Canal Zone varieties that, at first blush, appear to be errors. They certainly are worth considering.

Winners

At the American Philatelic Society’s StampShow held in Grand Rapids, MI in August 2015, David Zemer received a gold medal and the Canal Zone Study Group Medal for best multi-frame exhibit for his exhibit, “The 1920 Panama and Canal Zone 50c and \$1 Stamps,” and a gold medal for his single-frame exhibit, “World War I Censorship of Mail in the Canal Zone.” John Wynns received a silver medal and the Canal Zone Study Group Bronze Medal for New Exhibitors for his exhibit “Canal Zone: The 1926 Independence Sesquicentennial Issue.”



Fig. 1 David Zemer at his multi-frame exhibit awarded a gold medal at APS StampShow 2015

Major Army Commands Defending the Canal by Wayne Worthington

This article will provide a short postal history of the major US Army commands sent to or organized in the Panama Canal Zone as part of the defense forces for the Canal. Military postal history research can be confusing if you can't relate the command structures, who is in charge, and for what period of time. This piece will attempt to answer those questions and focus on the years 1910 to 1947.



Fig. 1 1912 Cover from Company L, 10th Infantry Regiment

As the US Army gained experience with taking responsibility for overseas territories following the Spanish-American War, it became apparent that a single commander needed to be appointed to provide unity of command. To bring the Panama Canal Zone under a single senior command, the 10th Infantry Regiment was sent to the Zone on October 10, 1911. This was a combat-seasoned unit – veteran of war with the Apaches, many significant battles during the Civil War, and combat in Cuba and the Philippines. Figure 1 shows a 1912 cover from Company L of the Regiment stationed at Las Cascadas.

A ratty postcard (Fig. 2) mailed on October 5, 1911 from Gorgona to the States says “The 10th Inf Regt arrived in Colon today. Looks like business.” This was probably an advance party tasked to arrange a smooth arrival of the Regiment on the Zone. And the Regiment took charge.

The 10th Infantry would leave the Zone to participate in World War I, but before their departure it would relinquish senior command of Army troops in the Zone sometime in 1915 to an organization known as US Troops Panama Canal Zone. (See Fig. 3)



Fig. 2 10th Infantry Regiment in full combat gear

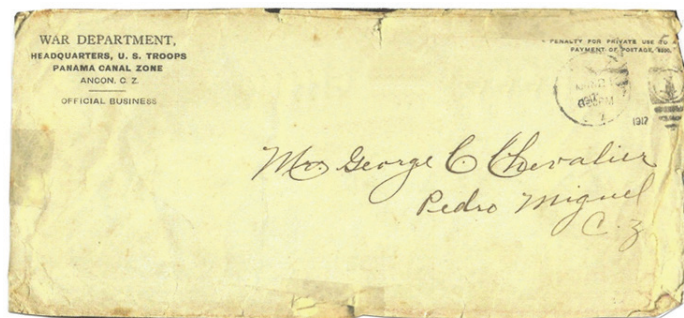


Fig. 3 Cover from US Troops Panama Canal Zone, 1912 in Ancon

With the assignment of infantry and field artillery units and a coastal artillery company emplacing gun units at both entrances of the Zone in 1914, this geographic command took charge of all Army forces. The command would first locate in the old Isthmian Canal Commission building in Ancon, but it would relocate to Quarry Heights in 1916.

On July 1, 1917 US Troops Panama Canal Zone would be disestablished and replaced by the newly created Panama Canal Department (PCD). The PCD would become one of the longest serving and important Army units to serve on the Zone. A cover from the PCD is shown in Fig. 4.

The command's earliest mission was to prepare the Zone for threats that might develop going into WWI. In fact, the defense of the Canal was second only to the continental homeland.

The PCD oversaw the expansion of military construction, road building, and creating defensive devices for locks and dams that continued into the late 1930s. At this time due to warfare technology growth, the PCD was exploring expansion of a defensive perimeter for the canal that included a large arc from Central America to northern South America. This required a great deal of diplomatic and military negotiations to provide military basing and to arrange command and logistical interaction with the PCD.

To add these missions to its extensive ground tactical requirements, it was deemed necessary to bring in a major tactical command unit. For this purpose, the 18th Infantry Brigade was ordered to the Zone. (I have never seen a cover from this unit.) It arrived on October 27, 1939 and reported to Ft. Davis. The 18th never took command as, on September 1, 1939, the PCD organized a special tactical command identified as the Panama Mobile Force (PMF). (See Fig. 5) The PCD clarified the command of all ground forces situation with the



Fig. 4 Cover from Panama Canal Department located at Quarry Heights



Fig. 5 Cover from Headquarters Panama Mobile Force at Ft. Clayton

disbandment of the 18th on June 14, 1940, leaving tactical ground forces command to the PMF.

One of the most confusing command changes made by the War Department was the joining of the PCD and the Caribbean Defense Command (CDC) (see Fig. 6) which was formed on February 10, 1941. The CDC was formed to consolidate military command of the Caribbean, defend the Panama Canal, and implement the Lend-Lease Program in the region. In short, the Caribbean section of Lend-Lease was to provide war ships to Great Britain in exchange for temporary use of military bases in the Caribbean.

The CDC took command by forming the Antilles Department which combined the Puerto Rican Department and the Trinidad Sector. It consolidated its mission by taking command of the PCD. Finally it commanded a Task Force



Fig. 6 Cover from Caribbean Defense Command, HQTS, Quarry Heights to Puerto Rican Department

composed of the reinforced 33rd Infantry Regiment sent to Dutch Guiana to keep their bauxite mines out of the hands of potential enemies.

What sometimes creates confusion for postal researchers is finding covers from both the PCD and the CDC at Quarry Heights during the same period.. When the CDC was formed, the Commanding General (CG) was put on orders as CG for both units. The PCD was responsible for the Canal and the Pacific defense arc from Guatemala south to Peru. As the senior command, the CDC commanded the PCD and all units in the Caribbean. The senior staff was shared by both units as shown in a cover provided by Russ Carter.

I hope this article is helpful. If you have material on the subject, please contact me through the *CZP* Editor or waynew@erols.com.

2015 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers by Jim Crumpacker

Here is the much-delayed comparison of 2015 Scott prices *vis-a-vis* the 2014 issue. The 2015 book reflects some 50 increases and 30 decreases over 2014. Two big-ticket items, numbers 15 and 47 (see below), had a sizeable change; otherwise no item moved very much. Modifications were obviously not driven by auction, as there wasn't much of auction note in 2014. Covers? Plentiful additions/changes in the 2014 catalog, but for 2015 forget it. The Postage Dues? A handful of small revisions. Postal Stationery? Not a single refinement of any real note; wait for the Gibbs sale entries. Ten or so moves were noted in the Airs, 80% up, 20% down.

Input from dealer listings and perhaps eBay had some influence. The No. 136-140 plate blocks went up in four of five cases. A group of other minor modern plate blocks

joined them.

Exhibited here is a modest sampling of this year's alterations:

Scott No.	2014	2015
7, OG	\$160.00	\$150.00
15, OG	2500.00	2000.00
30, OG	37.50	40.00
34, OG	12.00	11.00
47, OG	3250.00	2750.00
51, used	14.00	13.00
133, pl. bl. of 6	225.00	200.00
C20, pl. bl. of 6	500.00	525.00
U7, mint entire	30.00	35.00

The results from Scott contributors and staff were again outstanding. The needed refinements showed up, and accurately.

New Penalty Overprints Catalog

Production of a new US Penalty Overprint catalog to replace the one published by Leroy Ross in 1982 is well underway. The draft catalog is available electronically on the United Postal Stationery Society (UPSS) website (www.upss.org). Anyone interested in helping to make the final, printed version accurate and complete is asked to report any potential new listings, and/or add information that could be included in the new catalog. I imagine that our members have more than a few penalty covers and some might not be in this catalogue. If so, please contact Dan Undersander, UPSS publications manager (djunders@wisc.edu).

David Zemer

US WWII Civil Censor Privileged Mail Handstamp Number Assignment

by Paul F. Ammons and L. Dann Mayo

According to *Civil Censorship in the United States During World War II* [1], Broderick & Mayo (B&M) censor handstamp B1.6, shown in Fig. 1, was only used by the Chief Postal Censor (CPC), Office of Censorship (OOC) in Washington, DC, between January 1944 and June 1945. A recently re-surfaced copy of a letter [2], Fig. 2, that was de-classified in August 1983, provides updated information regarding the assignment and use of this privileged mail censor handstamp. Two cover examples of this handstamp were recently illustrated in the *CZP* [3].

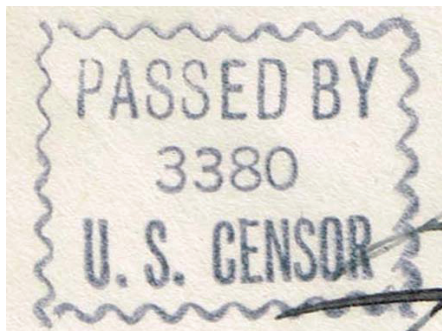


Fig. 1 B&M censor hand stamp B1.6

Placing the privileged mail censor numbers in order as shown in Table 1 provides some insight to their assignment. There appears to be a typographical error in the OOC CPC letter. The numbers assigned to New York City were most likely 2402-2420 and not 2402-2520, especially since Miami was assigned numbers 2514-2522.

Table 1 Privileged Mail Censor Handstamp Number Assignments

2402-2420	New York
2514-2522	Miami
2622-2624	Chicago
2718	Seattle
2810-2820	San Francisco
2926-2928	Honolulu, HI
3020	Los Angeles
3106	El Paso
3112	Nogales
3262-3270	San Antonio
3272	Brownsville
3274	Laredo
3378-3384	New Orleans
3456-3458	Balboa, CZ
3460-3464	Cristobal, CZ
3592-3593	San Jose, PR
3634-3635	Washington, DC

This new information slightly complicates information previously published in the *CZP* on allocated / observed US civil censor numbers [1] [4]:

- the New York (2402-2420) and Miami (2514-2522) assignments were carved out of, or removed from the Los Angeles December 19, 1941 allocation (2302-2577)

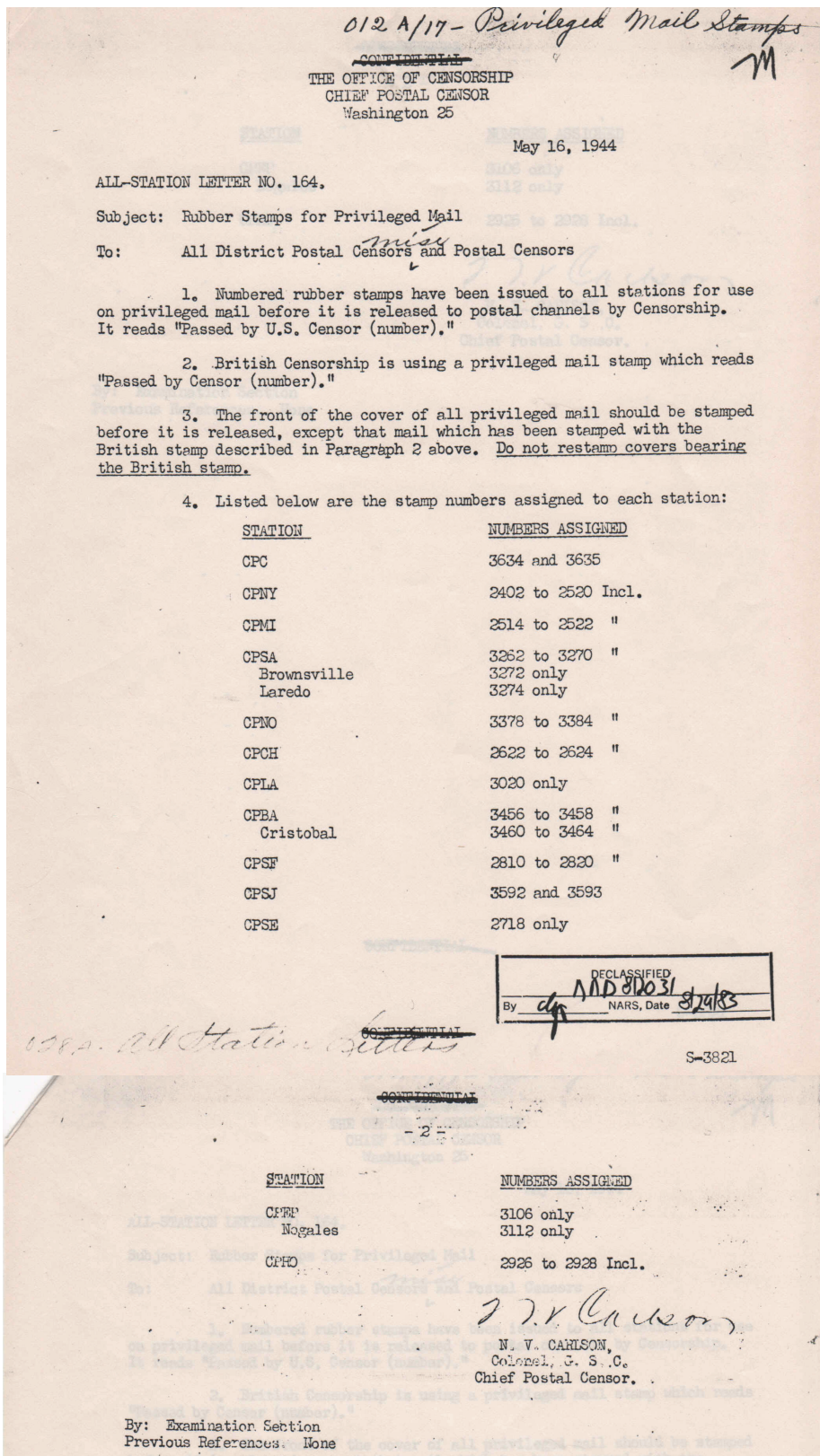


Fig. 2 OOC CPC All-Station Letter No. 164, May 16, 1944

- the Los Angeles (3020), El Paso (3106), Nogales (3112), San Antonio (3262-3270), Brownsville (3272), and Laredo (3274) assignments were carved out of, or removed from the Chicago December 19, 1941 allocation (3001-3300)
- the Balboa (3456-3458) and Cristobal (3460-3464) assignments were carved out of, or removed from the New Orleans February 2, 1942 allocation (3301-3494)

A new challenge will be to determine if these privileged mail censor numbers were previously assigned to, and used by, actual censors in Los Angeles, Chicago, and New Orleans and, later, removed from those three stations and re-assigned in 1944. Short of discovering additional documents in the archives, one of the ways to determine what may have occurred is to look for covers censored prior to 1943 with pre-printed white paper re-sealing labels, transparent/cellophane censor tapes, or other censor handstamp devices with any of these privileged mail censor numbers.

Since the Balboa and Cristobal censor stations did not routinely censor CZ-originated mail addressed to the US, I believe privileged mail censor handstamps with CZ-assigned numbers may be scarce and possibly limited to official business mail addressed to other countries. Further, the

privileged mail censor handstamp is more likely to be found on 1944-1945 CZ official business mail addressed to the US with numbers assigned to other censor stations.

As previously requested [3], readers are encouraged to provide complete descriptions, photocopies, or scans, both front and back, of WWII mail with B&M B1.6 handstamps.

I can be reached via email at ammons.paul@gmail.com, by snail mail at P. O. Box 1311, College Station, TX 77841, or via the editor.

References:

- [1] Broderick, Wilfrid N. and L. Dann Mayo, *Civil Censorship in the United States During World War II*, Civil Censorship Study Group and War Cover Club, 1980
- [2] Chief Postal Censor, Office of Censorship, Washington DC All-Station Letter No. 164 dated May 16, 1944, Subject: Rubber Stamps for Privileged Mail
- [3] Ammons, Paul, "An Interesting WWII Censored Cover," *CZP* 51(1):10-11 (2015)
- [4] Ammons, Paul, "Earliest WW II Civil Censorship of Canal Zone Originated Airmail – San Antonio," *CZP* 50(4):40-42 (2014)

Auctions by Jim Crumpacker

The auctions for the second calendar quarter, April 1-June 30, 2015 pursued the template of recent years: nothing to write home about. The great exception was the Gibbs sale; see the lengthy separate report on that subject on p. 32. Here is information on the few significant lots.

As ever, given first below is the total final price of hammer plus commission and is followed by the catalogue value in parentheses from the 2015 *Scott Catalogue*.

- 1, used, F \$240 (\$400) Regency Superior
- 3 var., V for last A of rt. PANAMA, couple short perfs. o/w VF on sl. rough opened cover La Boca 7/16/04 to Colon, Crist. transit cancel, \$983 (\$n/a) Rumsey
- 15, TG, F \$1265 (\$2000) RA Siegel
- 55e, booklet pane of 6, OG. NH. VG-F \$1553 (\$2250) Rumsey
- 67, used, VF+ \$60 (\$200) Modern
- 80, pl. bl. of 6, #14042-rt., OG, H, reduced selv. at rt. into pl. No., \$431 (\$3000) RA Siegel

The names and addresses for these auction houses are:

Modern Stamps
25900 Greenfield, Ste. 136
Oak Park, MI 48237

Regency Superior
PO Box 8277
St. Louis, MO 63156-8277

Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions
47 Kearny St.
San Francisco, CA 94108

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries
60 E. 56th St., 4th fl.
New York, NY 10022

Irwin J. Gibbs by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Philately in general, and Canal Zone philately in particular, lost one of its superstars when Irwin Gibbs passed away on June 5, 2015 after undergoing heart surgery. The collection formed by Irwin, a well-known and respected collector of the stamps, postal history, and postal stationery of the Canal Zone, was well known and highly regarded by all who knew him. He was a student and exhibitor of stamps of this specialty.

Irwin served in the Navy during World War II, graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1946, entered the food brokerage business, and founded GibbsMcCormick, Inc. which he headed for half a century. He also was a sportsman and philanthropist, devoting time to charities including the Food Industry Foundation, the March of Dimes, and the Institute on Aging.

He began collecting Canal Zone in earnest 50 years ago, developing a deep interest in the postal cards and envelopes issued for use in the Canal Zone, which led to his role as editor of the definitive catalogue of the subject, *The Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone*. He shared his postal stationery material with other collectors in numerous exhibitions, with his highly specialized exhibit garnering 37 gold medals since 2000, including two reserve grand awards and three Marcus White awards for the best postal stationery exhibit in each of the years 2008, 2012, and 2014.

A friend and advisor to countless other CZ collectors, Irwin will be missed very much.

The contributions of the Robert A. Siegel Auction Catalogue for the Irwin J. Gibbs Collection and the *San Francisco Chronicle* obituary of June 14, 2015 to this obituary are gratefully acknowledged.

Study Group News

Vice-President's Report

Mike Demski

KEARNEY511@aol.com

I had the opportunity to attend two important Canal Zone auctions in the last several months. The first was the Irwin Gibbs Canal Zone collection. Most Canal Zone collectors knew Irwin as the expert in Canal Zone Postal Stationery. Many did not know that Irwin also had an excellent general collection of Canal Zone. Irwin's general Canal Zone collection took up more than half of the auction catalogue. There were many rare and elusive items in this section of the catalogue. However, this part of Irwin's collection was overshadowed by the Canal Zone Postal Stationery. Irwin's postal stationery was by far the most complete and in-depth collection that was ever put together and will probably never be equaled in the future. The provenance "ex-Gibbs" will be used for many years to come. A total of 5 CZSG members attended the auction.

The second auction was the Donald A. Kuske Specialized Collection of Canal Zone. This auction stretched across all areas of Canal Zone collecting. There were several rare items and many scarce ones that seldom show up in auctions. Perhaps the most interesting area was the wrong fonts on the sharp A US overprinted stamps, with a total of 16 lots of wrong fonts. The low realization, including buyer's premium, was \$106 for a used \$1 (Scott 95) with a thin and the high realization, including buyer's premium, was \$885 for a Fine OG block of 4 with plate number of the 50c, Scott No. 94. There will be a much more in-depth review of this auction in a future issue of the *CZP*. A total of 6 CZSG members attended the auction.

At both auctions there was much discussion among the CZSG members about various areas of Canal Zone collecting. No matter what event, whenever you get two or more Canal Zone collectors together, the discussion on some Canal Zone philatelic area is lively.

I have been seeing a move among Canal Zone collectors to becoming much more specialized in their collecting interests. Most Canal Zone collectors still maintain a general collection, but they also have branched off into more specialized areas (e.g., map stamps, postal history, plate flaws on US-overprinted issues, first permanent air mail issue, FAM 5 1-2, censor mail of WWI and WWII, and the list goes on). These specialized collectors have opened up new areas of research that have yielded many new finds, expanding the horizons for Canal Zone collectors. There are fewer and fewer general collectors, those who collect all areas of Canal Zone philately, but because of the specialists they have much more to collect. Canal Zone collecting is alive and well!

I hope you are paying attention to the show schedule because the CZSG is becoming more involved with participating in stamp events all around the country. This will give the membership an opportunity to meet other members and discuss various areas of Canal Zone collecting. Perhaps our biggest event will be next year with the CZSG participating in World Stamp Show NY 2016. We will have a booth at this event which the members can use as a home base. I hope you all take advantage of this event, which occurs in the US only once every 10 years. The entire world stamp collecting community will be focused on New York City. Hope to see you there!

Special Auction Report: The Irwin J. Gibbs Auction

by Jim Crumpacker

In the most recent issue of *CZP* I hope you read the excellent narrative article by Elliot Coleman on the Irwin J. Gibbs sale of May 21, 2015. Supplementing that article, here is my normal by-the-numbers presentation of some of the more interesting of the 363 lots that were on offer.

As most of you are aware, Mr. Gibbs had, over the course of many years, put together the world's finest collection of Canal Zone Postal Stationery. He also possessed a great accumulation of stamps and postal history.

With his passing my three great West Coast mentors, Richard H. Salz, David J. Leeds, and Irwin J. Gibbs, are all gone. May they rest in peace.

Some results from this auction are shown below. The first price exhibited is hammer plus Robert A. Siegel's 15% commission. The values in parentheses are from the 2015 *Scott Catalogue*.

- 1 var., inverted V for A in rt. PANAMA, TG, H, VF \$374 (\$n/a)
- 1 var., P NAMA at left (CZSG 1.1a) TG, H, F-VF \$575 (\$700)
- 1b, CANAL ZONE double, TG, H, almost VF \$4600 (\$3250)
- 1f, vert. pair., reading up on top two, down on other, in F-VF str. of 3 on VF cover La Boca 7/2/04 to Colon \$2990 (\$n/a)
- 2d, CANAL ZONE diagonal, TG, H, F \$690 (\$800)
- 3 var., COLON betw. rt. PANAMA and bar, (CZSG 3.3) TG, H, F w/ top selvage \$690 (\$650)
- 10b, L of CANAL sideways, OG, HR, VF \$1380 (\$2500)
- 12c, PANAMA ovpt double, used, VG-F, 5th pr. \$805 (\$1000)
- 15 var., two PANAMA's close (CZSG 15.7) TG, H, almost VF \$1265 (\$2000)
- 15a, PANAMA reading down and up, OG, H, F-VF \$4025 (\$7000)
- 22b, vert. pair, imperf. between, OG, H, VF \$2300 (\$2000)
- 22d, inv't ovpt reading up, large part OG, H, F-VF \$575 (\$500)
- 23a, horiz. pair, imperf between, OG, H, VF \$1725 (\$2250)
- 23i, CANAL double, TG, H, VF \$7475 (\$5000)
- 24d, CANAL only, TG, H, VF w/ rt. selv., \$8625 (\$5500)
- 55e, booklet pane of 6, OG, H, VF+ \$2070 (\$2250)
- 60a, booklet pane of 6, TG, H, VF \$863 (\$900)
- 61b, dbl. ovpt., in vert. pair w/ normal, top selv., TG, H, F-VF \$920 (\$803)
- 71a, invt'd ovpt., OG, H, F \$518 (\$500)
- 102a, booklet pane of 6, handmade, perf. margins, 2 panes, one w/ pl. No. 18831, in cpl. bklt., OG, NH, VF \$11500 (\$13000)
- J20c, dbl. ovpt. rose red, OG, H, F w/ top selv., \$316 (\$450)
- U1a, (UPSS 1a) head and ovpt only, mint entire VF \$1495 (\$2000)
- U2S, (UPSS 2Sb, mint SPECIMEN entire w/ F4966 h/s, small adherence on flap o/w VF \$230 (\$1000)
- U2d (UPSS 2b) frame double, mint entire, VF \$1955 (\$2500)
- UF1, (UPSS RE1, type R1) used w/ 2c orange and black, Crist. 6/17/19 to Cuba, VF \$1610 (\$2000)
- UF1a, (UPSS RE3, type R2) mint entire, VF \$1035 (\$1300)
- UX1a (UPSS S1a) double surcharge, mint entire, VF \$1035 (\$1500)
- UX1c (UPSS S1c), triple surcharge, one reading down, mint entire, minor soil o/w VF, \$2185 (\$3300)
- UX3a (UPSS S6a) double ovpt used Crist. 7/7/11 local cover, VF 1610 (\$4250)
- UPSS CS13 XMAS card, mint entire, VF \$219 (\$500)
- UX6S (UPSS S13a) print order F7430 in red and punched "SPECIMEN A.B.N. Co." mint entire, VF \$690 (\$2000)
- UX8a (UPSS S15a) background only, mint entire, 4 small punched "L's" minor toning and staple holes o/w VF \$1495 (\$1800)

Secretary's Report

Mike Drabik

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Bolton, MA 01740-0281

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Hello to all members of the CZSG. I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and has had time to organize, add to, and enjoy your Canal Zone collections.

It's important to know that the CZSG continues to be recognized as an extremely active organization. We have participated in several local meetings and in most recent National APS meetings by having our members supply medal-winning exhibits on aspects of Canal Zone philately as well as providing information about the CZSG to generate interest and recruit new members. Your membership dues continue to support the new publications we issue such as the newly revised *CZSG Checklist of Canal Zone Stamps and Postal Stationery* that was sent to you with the Q2 issue of the *CZP*.

Please note we will have an election in 2016 to select Officers and Directors for their next two-year terms. If anyone would like to have their name on the ballot, I will need to hear from you by the end of 2015.

My Secretary's report for the third quarter of 2015 is as follows:

As of September 14, 2015 the Canal Zone Study Group has 543 members listed. Unfortunately there are still 34 members on our list who are not current in payment of their 2015 membership dues but have had the benefit of receiving the first two issues of our journal for 2015 and the newly revised checklist. (These members may not be getting this Q3 issue if they have not paid their dues.)

Please join me in welcoming our newest members:

Olaf J Poulsen, CZSG #2761

Dr. Joseph S. Odziana, CZSG #2766

Norman J. Smith, CZSG #2762

Shirley Avery Bentley, CZSG #2767

Ralph Weil, CZSG #2763

Mike Krivitzky, CZSG #2768

John W. Mickey, CZSG #2764

Andy Busard, CZSG #2769

Robert M. Teunion, CZSG #2765

The following CZSG members have made changes to their mailing addresses:

Steven J. Pullan, CZSG #963 Stephen M. Jones, CZSG #1696

I regret that the following members have resigned from the CZSG and do not wish to continue their membership:

Donald M. Bates, CZSG #2730

Burl C. Henry, CZSG #2749

It is with great sadness that I have been notified of the passing of our fellow CZSG member listed below. We send our condolences to the family for their loss of:

J.E. Dorn Thomas, CZSG #507

Best wishes to everyone. Let me know if you have suggestions or wish to report something. And as always invite another philatelist to the CZSG!

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CZSG Regional Meetings in 2015

NOJEX 2015

by George R. Campbell



Meeting Attendees (L to R): Seated: Dick Bates, George Campbell, Elliot Coleman; Standing: Rob Loeffler, Mike Demski, Doug Hankin, Des Fitzgerald, Tom Griffin.

Eight members gathered at a CZSG Regional Meeting held at NOJEX 2015 in Secaucus, NJ on May 30. (See the photo above for those in attendance.) This was the ninth consecutive meeting at this venue since the reactivation of the Metro Chapter of the CZSG. Note that there will be no NOJEX Show next year, due to the timing of the New York 2016 International Show (in which the CZSG will participate).

Metro Chairman George Campbell opened the meeting by welcoming all participants. George noted the recent issuance of the First Quarter, 2015 *Canal Zone Philatelist*, which was accompanied by an updated *Checklist* (edited by Richard Spielberg), and an annual *CZP* Index update (prepared by the Metro Chapter). He then introduced *CZP* Editor Dick Bates, who gave a report on recent CZSG news and activities. These will not be repeated here, as they are addressed in other CZSG meeting reports. However, special mention was made of the ongoing efforts of Tom Brougham in preparing suggested updates and revisions to the CZ Section of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*.

Elliot Coleman followed with a detailed presentation of the R.A. Siegel Auction of the collection of Irwin Gibbs. This was a major sale of CZ material, by any measure. It contained many great rarities, with particular emphasis on CZ Postal Stationery, an area in which Irwin had specialized. A separate report prepared by Elliot was published in the last issue of the *CZP*.

Elliot is also coordinating a "Canal Zone Night" to be held at the Collector's Club of New York on October 7, 2015. This will feature exhibits and presentations of varied CZ material by CZSG members.

In a related matter, Dick Bates noted the growing number of stamp shows where the CZSG is a sponsoring organization (NY 2016, Sarasota 2018, WESTPEX 2020) or otherwise holds Regional Meetings (Boxborough, NOJEX, NAPEX, APS Stampshow, CHICAGOPEX, and others). This is a great testimonial to the vitality and influence of our membership.

The meeting concluded with members heading back to the bourse in search of more treasures.

Philatelic Show 2015

by Mike Drabik

Philatelic Show 2015 of the Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs was held in Boxborough, MA in May 2015. Three

continued on page 34

CZSG Regional Meetings

continued from page 33

CZSG members contributed exhibits, which were described in the previous issue of the *CZP*.

A CZSG Meeting was held on Saturday, May 1. Topics discussed included:

- a CZSG membership report by Mike Drabik
- an announcement that 2016 is an election year for CZSG Officers and Directors for the next two-year terms
- a new dedicated CZSG Paypal account for payment of annual membership dues
- upcoming shows and events of interest to CZSG members listed in the *CZP*
- the revised 3rd edition of *Canal Zone Postal Stationery Catalogue*, edited by Irwin Gibbs
- a suggestion by Mike Drabik that an editable digital album for Canal Zone stamps that could be downloaded by members be created.



Attendees at CZSG meeting in Boxborough: From the left: Marie and Chris DeVoe; Mike Drabik, CZSG Secretary; David Zemer, CZSG President; Dick Bates, CZP Editor; Larry Fillion; Paul Ammons, Board Member; Jim Mongeon; David Dubois; Tom Marsella; Walter Paton

Two presentations highlighted the meeting. Paul Ammons presented an overview of WWII censorship of Canal Zone-originated mail and the operation of the censor stations in Balboa and Cristobal. His discussion was illustrated with philatelic covers he provided for examination and three different handouts on this topic that were distributed to all in attendance.

David Zemer gave a presentation using images of archival documents in his possession showing internal communications within the American Bank Note Co. and between the ABNCo and its customer Panama as postal stamps were ordered, designed, produced, and delivered to Panama. David also presented an original archival folder from the ABNCo for all to examine.

StampShow 2015 by David Zemer

At the CZSG meeting at StampShow in Grand Rapids, MI on August 22nd, David Zemer provided a summary of future CZSG meetings, including both regional meetings and meetings at shows at which the CZSG will be a participating society. These include Sarasota in 2018 and WESTPEX in 2020. (Shortly after the conclusion of StampShow 2015, David finalized arrangements for the CZSG to be a participating society at ARIPEX in 2017.)

Attendees discussed their collecting interests and activities by going around the room for introductions, interests, and questions. Members expressed interest in the searchable copies of the *CZP* posted on the CZSG's web site, and wondered whether more recent issues could be included. (At present only those issued five years or more in the past are available.) Jim Morrison pointed out that items from his

collection were available at the Harmer-Schau auction held in conjunction with the show, and that he was quite satisfied with the results. He also indicated that he had literature items available with him at the show, and hoped members would help them find new homes.



StampShow CZSG Meeting Attendees: From the left: Dave Fredericks, John H. Morrison, David Zemer, Jim Kloetzel, Len McMaster, Jonathan Kumbera, Dick Bates, William Matthews, John Wynns, Charles Mickler Bentley, Mike Baranoski, Shirley Avery Bentley

Dick Bates, Editor of the *CZP*, updated members on recent items included with the *CZP* mailing, including the new Index and the revised and updated *Check List*. It was suggested that the Editor plan an expanded 1st Q 2016 issue to celebrate the New York City show later that Spring and to have copies available as a promotional item at the CZSG table at the Show.

Dave Fredericks asked a question about distinguishing the different types of gum on the wet and dry printings of the last series of definitives. Some are found with only two types, for the wet and dry printings, and others have a second type of gum on dry printings that were done in the mid- to late '70s. It can be distinguished by its extremely dull appearance that makes it seem as if there is no gum present at all.

Exhibitors at recent shows and highlights of their medals were provided by David Zemer, and a summary of the new guidelines for awarding the three CZSG medals (Multiframe Exhibit, Single Frame Exhibit, and First Time Exhibitor) were provided. (These will be included in the 4th Q 2015 issue.)

NAPEX 2015

by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Attendees at the CZSG meeting at NAPEX 2015 in Tysons Corner, VA on Saturday, June 6, 2015, included Dick Bates, Dick Larkin, Jim Kloetzel, Len Nadybal, Paul Byron, Ronald Turner, Len McMaster, Don Peterson, Jerry Craig, and Brad Wilde. (A photo of this group is not available.) In addition to the general topics described in the reports given above, this meeting included a discussion of proposed changes in listings in the *Scott Catalogue*. These include adding listings of the ABNCo specimens and including the wrong font varieties on the sharp A overprints.

Announcement: CZSG Elections

Please note the CZSG will hold an election in 2016 to select Officers and Directors (3) for their next two-year terms. If anyone would like to have their name on the ballot, or would like to nominate a member for one of the offices, please let Mike Drabik know before the end of 2015. (Mike Drabik, PO Box 281, Bolton, MA 01740-0281 or by email at czsgsecretary@gmail.com.) The ballot will be included with the annual dues request.

A New Quarry Heights Postal Marking

by Robert J. "Bob" Karrer

For quite a few years I have laid aside covers from the various WWII Army Post Offices (APOs). This quite naturally developed into an interest in covers before and after APO usage that were sent under the aegis of the Canal Zone Postal System (CZPS). Over these 40 or so years a very good appreciation of what's scarce and what isn't is a benefit of all this effort. Certainly, Entwistle's observation that "Cancellations from Quarry Heights are not difficult to find" needs serious amplification. While this may be true for some of the postmarks used at the venerable post office, there are many listed markings that are quite scarce and usually costly.

George Brett gave me a wonderful photo album containing over 50 shots of Canal Zone area postal facilities that he took in 1945-46. Figure 1 depicts the stand-alone Quarry Heights post office, taken on December 30, 1945. Sadly the building is now long since demolished. I note on that date in 1945 it was already marked as the Quarry Heights Post Office!



Fig. 1
Quarry Heights
Post Office as
it appeared in
December 1945

The author resided in the Canal Zone for about ten years in three tours of duty with the US Army: 1967-70 at the US Army School of the Americas, Fort Gulick and the Army HQ at Fort Amador; 1972-76 with J2, US Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM); and finally as Deputy J2 at USSOUTHCOM in 1979-82. My mail box was at Quarry Heights on the last two tours. We actually resided at one of the circa 1916 officers' quarters during that last tour.

So, when the Canal Zone philatelic "bug" hit me around 1970-72, I gradually focused more on the use of the stamps rather than the stamps themselves, and in my Senior Citizen years this appreciation has only increased. Having worked for seven years at Quarry Heights, and sleeping in three different sets of quarters there it seemed almost natural to look hardest at Quarry Heights. Also, as a deltiologist (picture postcard collector), the search for local images never ceases, but sadly they are few in number.

The large number of APO markings in use after July 1, 1942, are another story, and clearly demonstrate that *Entwistle* can use a major revision by a future interested, computer savvy, postal historian. The APO literally closed on February 23, 1946; however, for several months after that date the old APO devices were still in use. The CZPS's post office there was closed in a postwar economy move at the close of business of FY 1949 (September 30th). It reopened on



Fig. 3
Expanded view
of Quarry Heights
marking

June 1, 1964, and closed for good when the last remnants of old Canal Zone disappeared over a period of time in the late 1990s.

The particular cover that has brought the new postmark to my attention originated at the HQ, US Army Caribbean (later USSOUTHCOM). Figure 2 shows it is a registered cover on a #10 penalty envelope franked with 25c in Canal Zone postage at the minimum fee for registry service that went into effect on January 1, 1949. The 35 mm handstamp shown in Fig. 3 is what caught my attention. My first reaction was to ask "Why the date marker?"... but then I noted there was no date in it... just the words "Quarry Heights Canal Zone" and the slightly irregular four-bar killer. On the reverse its route is clear: there are two March 14, 1949 registry markings (C-4a on page 297 in *Entwistle*). Next, on the 15th there is a nice Albright Air Force Base C-4a mark (page 188). Rounding it off are Washington, DC and Pentagon registry marks. Note it is addressed to the Director of Intelligence, US Army. Therefore, it would seem that this at least semi-sensitive mail was routed directly to Albright and was likely carried north by a military aircraft when one became available. Otherwise, its route would have been down the hill, so to speak, to Balboa and thence to the civilian airmail terminal on the other side of the Albright landing field. So this may well be a nice example of a little known mail route.

Since this cancel has gone unreported there can't be many of them. Given its date shortly after October 1, 1948, when the US Air Force became an independent organization by leaving the US Army, one can only imagine all the organizational changes and missions that had to be sorted out.

The dealer from whom I purchased this asked a "firm price" based on the "scarce markings on back." I really didn't appreciate the postal mark on the front of the registered envelope until later, and when I consulted my *Entwistle* I was really excited. So, after several years I wish to share it with *CZP* readers in the hope that it will be added to a future edition.

The author would love to hear of additional examples of this new find. I'd surmise its lack of dates was intentional as mail clerks certainly knew the stamps on the front should receive a "mute cancel." If future covers are reported, the key is to see if the usages are with or without a date. In all, a great find for our never-ending "work in progress." Write to me at Bob Karrer, 17 Wentworth St., Charleston, SC 29401 or email at bkarrer@comcast.net.

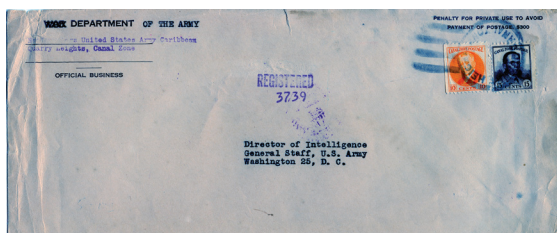


Fig. 2
Registered
cover with
Quarry
Heights
marking



Fig. 4
Reverse
of cover in
Fig. 2

Another New Postage Due Handstamp by Paul F. Ammons

Browsing at the bourse at Philatelic Show 2015 in Boxborough, MA, I spotted a cover with yet another postage due handstamp not listed in *Entwistle*. [1][2] The cover, shown in Fig. 1, has 6c in postage and is marked "Postage Due 6 Cents," with the "6" pencil-scratched through and "12" written above. There are no US postage due stamps affixed to the cover.

This new postage due handstamp is similar to PD-1t. [2] However, the letters on this handstamp are 6 mm tall and the handstamp is 55mm wide, Fig. 2. The return address is Box 29, Coco Colo, C.Z.

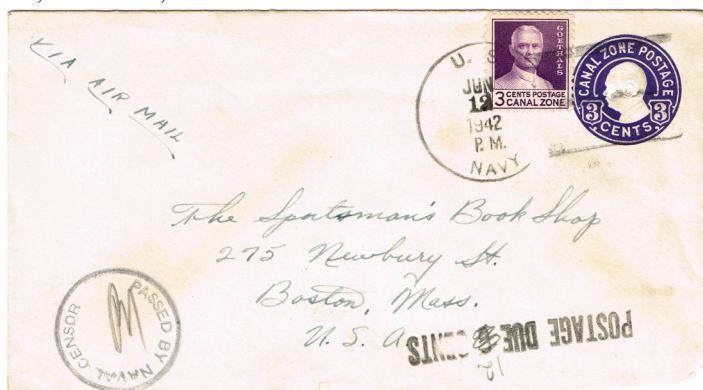


Fig. 1. Cover with 6c in postage marked "Postage Due 12 Cents"

This postage due handstamp may have been used during two timeframes: (1) December 15, 1941 through September 30, 1946 when the World War II special serviceman's air mail letter rate of 6c per ½ oz. was in effect; and (2) January 1, 1949 through July 31, 1957 when the air mail letter rate to the US was 6c per oz.

From the same dealer, I obtained a confirmation copy, Fig. 3, of the recently documented new, two-line postage due handstamp. [3] This second cover is also postmarked Cristobal, only three days after the discovery copy. Of interest are the ten US 2c postage due stamps on the back, Fig. 4, that were pen-cancelled "Bel Air 6-6-35." Since the 20c per ½ oz. air mail letter rate to the US lasted through November 1937, there should be other, as yet, unreported examples. One of the questions to be answered is whether this handstamp was unique to Cristobal which, during this time period, supported

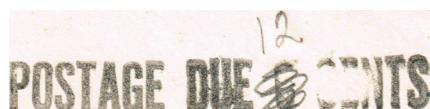


Fig. 2.
Postage Due
handstamp

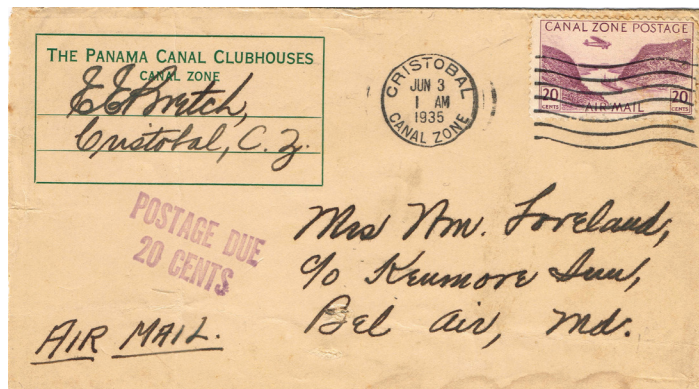


Fig 3 Cover with 20c in postage marked "Postage Due 20 Cents"

the Pan American Airways (PANAM) terminal with its Sikorsky flying boats and S-18 amphibians carrying air mail to the US.

Should anyone have additional examples of either of these two handstamps or any other previously undocumented postage due handstamp, I can be reached via email at ammons.paul@gmail.com, by snail mail at P. O. Box 1311, College Station, TX 77841, or via the editor.



Fig. 4 US postage due stamps applied in Bel Air, MD

References

- [1] Entwistle, Lawson P., *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, Second Edition*, Handbook No. 9, Canal Zone Study Group, 1992, pg. 137-8
- [2] Entwistle, Lawson P., *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, Second Edition*, Handbook No. 9, Addendum – September 1997, Canal Zone Study Group, pg. 5
- [3] Ammons, Paul, "New Postage Due Handstamp," *CZP* 51(1): 7 (2015)

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